

**From:** Tom Skinner  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 11:47am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The antitrust suit against Microsoft has been settled. This agreement was arrived at after extensive negotiations with a court-appointed mediator. The whole process took three years, which I believe is long enough, if not too long. This settlement has profound implications for all software publishers, the rest of the IT industry, and consumers.

New government regulations will be imposed on the IT sector. The proposed agreement requires major changes in how Microsoft develops and markets its products, while allowing competitors the possibility of suing the company if it does not comply with these new rules. The settlement is in the best interests of the state, the economy and our nation as a whole.

The recession has had a devastating effect on budgets at both the state and federal levels. It is important to allow the IT industry the ability to concentrate solely on its business at hand. The original agreement reached by the Justice Department is beneficial to the industry and the economy at this point. The settlement needs to be agreed upon by all members of the federal government, permitting us to continue being a leader in the technological market at home and around the world.

Sincerely,

Tom Skinner

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